Newsletter of the

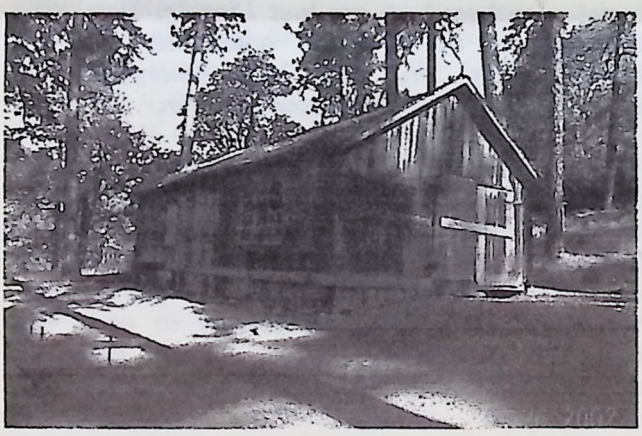
BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2002

LATEST RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY FOR COOKHOUSE AND POST OFFICE

It doesn't look like much now, but wait til Buncom Day! That's the target for completing the restoration of the Cookhouse overhang and the Post Office porch.

The old overhang was in danger of collapsing, so as we restored it, we decided to restore the porch that originally graced the Post Office at the same time. We are pleased to have a couple of experts do the work -- Phil



The Cookhouse in transition

Clark and Joe Schattler, who restored the floor and windows in the Cookhouse last year.

Right now, as the newsletter is written, the Cookhouse looks a bit naked. The old overhang has been taken down and the supports are going in for the "new" one. It's planned that it will look as authentic as the original, and immediately fit in with the building. The same is planned for the Post Office, drawing on an old photograph from the 1950s that shows the porch still intact.

This is the latest in a series of projects designed to restore and protect Buncom's three buildings. Over the past 10 years of the Buncom Historical Society's existence, we have replaced the roofs on all three buildings, strengthened the underlying supports on all the buildings, replaced the door and windows in the Post Office, the door in the Bunkhouse, the floor and windows of the Cookhouse, and done internal structural work in the Cookhouse and Bunkhouse.

With this project, the buildings will be safe for another generation or longer.

It's time for the 9th Annual Buncom Day, Saturday, May 25

If it's May it must be time for Buncom Day. Not only that, it's the Ninth Annual Buncom Day. So plan to join us for yet another fun-filled time on **Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parade time is 12:30 p.m.**

As usual, there will be food, music, craft vendors, displays and educational exhibits, and fun for the kids. Admission is free, so come on out to Buncom for the day!

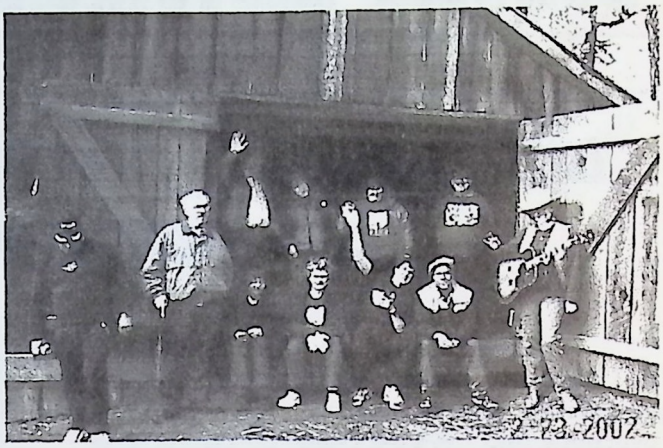
Work Party

AND -- Don't forget the annual Work Party to clean up the grounds for Buncom Day. That's **Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to noon**. Just bring a rake, broom, weed-eater and/or shovel.

Buncom's a Popular Spot:

Diverse Groups Make Stops at Our Town For Tours

Director J.B. & friend are center of attention.



Happy group from Springfield.

Two groups of note made a stop at Buncom recently for tours.

The first was a group of adults with disabilities from the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District in Springfield. Nearly a dozen people with their leader, Darlene Muller, came down for a day trip in February to be greeted by Directors Reeve and Lyn Hennion, Connie Fowler and J.B. Roberts. J.B. brought his horse down and was the center of attention for several of the group members, while Connie (with guitar, of course) sang and even led the group in several old favorites.

Another group was from Elderhostel and attending a week-long session centered around the Shakespeare Festival. It also included a day tour of "The Natural Wonder of Southern Oregon" that included a stop at Buncom. Hennion met the group and told them about Buncom's history and legend.

JOIN THE PARADE AT BUNCOM DAY!

Just bring your old car, tractor, wagon, horse (real or stick), or join us on foot. A few minutes before parade time we'll call for those who want to be in the parade. That's all it takes.

The Buncom Register

Here are more writings from the Buncom Register gathered at our last Buncom Day. The Register will be available again this year at Buncom Day, and we hope everyone will contribute their thoughts about Buncom.

At age 7, we "moved to Little Applegate with Aunt Addie and Uncle Clifford Dunnington. We had a cattle ranch on Wolf Gulch. Cliff was the ditch rider in the winter when Paul Pearce was mising. He kept the ditch running even after Paul quit. After he passed away in early 50s there was no one to organize repairs so before long was unable to get a head of water in ditch. We ran cattle on Wagner Butte. Since I had no brothers I was the farmer and covered most of the area on my horses Rex Queen Beauty and Pat. It was hard work but enjoyed. We farmed with horses since the ground was too steep for tractors in most places.

"Then everyone on Little Applegate could gather in one house. The School was one room Dist. 81. Last year was 4 students -- Colista West (Bailey), Rollin Crump, my sister Donna and me. We learned most of this not in the book -- catching fish with hands, doctoring cows & etc. Our teacher was Rollin's mother Irene Crump." -- Ileane Brownlee Davis.

The Forest Service Guard Station at Little Applegate

By Evelyn Byrne Williams

I remember the excitement in visiting my father, John Byrne, at his summer Forest Service Guard Station camp where he was posted during the fire season in the early 1930's. It was located on the former Harold Crump ranch, near Yale Creek where it flows into the Little Applegate River. It was near the bridge which crosses the Little Applegate River that the Forest Service chose to place its encampment. It was always shaded and a pleasant place for summer living, even though my father was not happy about being away from home and living the bachelors life.

A 12' x 12' wooden platform was erected. Then a frame work placed on it, over which a canvas was stretched and secured for shelter. A Forest Service telephone was installed inside near a table which also served as a desk. A bed and a straight backed chair completed the furnishings. Nails driven into the wooden studs held my father's clothing...

On the day he was to leave for the Little Applegate camp, my mother, the family barber, gave him a good hair cut. She then packed his clothes, food and other essentials for his long stay. She went along to help him get settled, then returned home in time to milk the cow, and go on alone without her husband's help for the rest of the summer.

I was at the age when I would rather have gone and stayed with my father. I thought his camp was so inviting. It would be fun to do the cooking outside on a typical miner's wood stove and sit at a campfire in the evening while having a game of cribbage with my dad. Little did I realize how much work there was to keep wood for the stove and to carry water in a bucket from the stream...

The Forest Service Guard Stations were equipped with the necessary tools for fighting fires. When the Guard received a call about a fire in his vicinity, his first response was to get to the scene as quickly as possible, and then attempt to make a line around the fire with his shovel and "Pulaski" (a comfination ax and pick). If he had an ax and saw with him, he could help contain the fire even further by removing more fuel. Often times he was on his own containing the fire, especially when there were other fires in the area; help could be scarce and miles away. When we knew my father was on a fire, we worried constantly until we knew he was safely back at his camp.

I think my father was at the Guard Station on

(See FATHER, Page 5)

MERCY FLIGHTS PROVIDES LIFE-SAVING BENEFITS AT GROUP RATES

Whether one lives in town or in the country, an accident or sudden illness can create an urgent need for immediate medical attention. Sometimes getting to the hospital quickly can make all the difference.

Mercy Flights, a non-profit organization based in Medford, has provided air and ground ambulance services for our area for more than half a century. It is the largest emergency transport agency in Jackson County and was the first air ambulance service in the nation. It is not tax-subsidized and operates solely on user funds, its membership program and grants.

If you join Mercy Flights as a member, expenses for services that aren't covered by your insurance are reduced or eliminated. Mercy Flights bills your insurance and, if you are a member, accepts what your insurance pays as payment in full. For those without insurance or whose insurance denies payment, fees are reduced by 50%.

Discounted group rates are offered, and a group currently is being put together in the Applegate. Such membership brings the full range of Mercy Flights benefits, but the annual rate is reduced from $70 to $50 per household.

If you are interested in more information or becoming a part of the group, call Deb Rennie at 899-5933.

THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

Dennis & Judy Barr, Medford, OR
Tony & Betty Bauer, Medford, OR
Bud & Mary Jo Bergstrom, Medford, OR
Fitzhugh & Ann Brewer, Medford, OR
Mario & Edith Campagna, Medford, OR
John & Susan Cox-Smith, Gold Hill, OR
Duane & Linda Daniels, Medford, OR
Bon & Laurie Dysart, Medford, OR
Harley & Vernice Hall, Jacksonville, OR
John & Ethel Hassen, Medford, OR
Ken & Samantha Holyome, Jacksonville, OR
Petra & Bob Irwin, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Ellen Knapp, Medford, OR
Frank & Sue Maesen, Jacksonville, OR
Lind & Effa McBeth, Jacksonville, OR
Noel & Lovella Moore, Central Point, OR
Tam & Ann Moore, Medford, OR
Ken & Jo Anne Phillips, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Ginny Post, Central Point, OR
Al & Roxanne Pratt, Medford, OR
Karoli Cadarette & Doug Stewart, Jacksonville, OR
Ron & Cherie Stockfleth, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Janet Trzop, Jacksonville, OR
Leota Cantrall, Medford, OR
Alexandria & Paul Enneking, Granite Bay, CA
Edward Cantrall, Springfield, VA
Eugene & Lou Bevacqua, Otis Orchards, WA
Judy Hall, Vancouver, WA
Buzz & Marlene Robinson, Tacoma, WA

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Dennis & Judy Barr
John & Susan Cox-Smith
Jane & Paul Sage
Edmund Dews
Noel & Lovella Moore
Jerry & Nancy McGrew
Glenn & Colista Bailey
Bon & Laurie Dysart
Rose Marie & Dick Leever
Bones & Barb Wright
Phillis Runals
John & Ethel Hassen
Mario & Edie Campagna
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Ann & Fitz Brewer
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg
Regina Mainwaring
Dan & Diane Roberts

A REMINDER ...

If you haven't sent in your 2002 membership dues yet, now is the time. It's just $5.00 per family. Send your check to Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Dues entitle you to receive this quarterly newsletter. Donations are tax deductible.

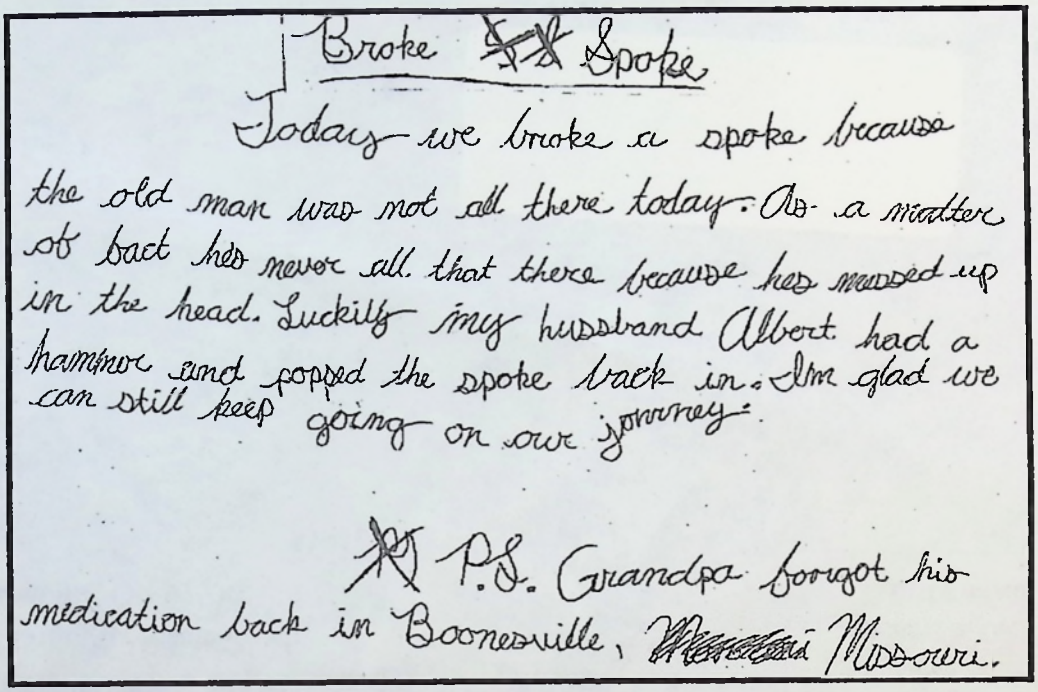
More Publicity for Buncom

Society member and realtor Nancy Anderson sends out a real estate newsletter, and in her May issue she has featured Buncom on the front page. She includes pictures and notes that it is "lovingly maintained by the Buncom Historical Society," as well as telling her readers about the upcoming Buncom Day.

The article also offers the address of our web site.

Thanks for the publicity, Nancy!

From the Oregon Trail:



Broke ~~&~~ Spoke

Today we broke a spoke because the old man was not all there today. As a matter of fact he's never all that there because he's messed up in the head. Luckily my husband Albert had a hammer and popped the spoke back in. I'm glad we can still keep going on our journey.

~~P.S.~~ P.S. Grandpa forgot his medication back in Boonesville, ~~Missouri~~ Missouri.

Last year at Buncom Day Jane Setum's 4th Grade class from Ruch School displayed pages of an Oregon Trail Journal they had created. Here is another page from one day.

FATHER (From Page 3)

Little Applegate for several years. Later he was stationed at Tallow Box Lookout and at the Thompson Creek Guard Station. Several summers he helped train young men in fire fighting and took them to the fires until he became a Forest Service Fire Inspector for logging operations here in the Applegate Ranger District.

My mother's sister, Clara (McKee) Smith and her husband, Roland, bought the Crump ranch in later years so my family would visit there quite often. Whenever we crossed the Little Applegate bridge it would bring back memories of my father's camp. I'm sure he and my mother thought of those as hard times but I only remember the good ones. Even now as I cross the bridge and see the overgrown willows, with the tall weeds and grass covering the ground I get a lump in my throat, remembering the little camp and my father staying there. Perhaps my sister and I are the only ones left who remember it, back in time.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656
Lyn Hennion

J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send $5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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